

GOD GIVES BELIEVERS POWER TO MEET THINGS RIGHT

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Jesus told us, "He who has my commandments and obeys them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and will clearly reveal myself to him." (John 14:21). (What could be more encouraging for us, than that Promise from Jesus! (to not only give us His commandments, but to reveal to us via His spirit, the way we are to obey them.)

Under the Gospel, God is promised to do a great double work. Under the Law He just blessed people if they were' obedient to that Law; but in the New Testament He puts a power within us (when we are surrendered to do His Will in our life.) In other words, He causes us to be obedient via His power within us, (and, via that indwelling Spirit within ourselves), He enables us to 'meet the conditions', and then gives us the blessings that come for meeting those conditions Scripturally. We should never lose sight of this 'truth of God', and that under His Gospel Plan, He is doing that entire work (to enable us to be made ready to enter His Kingdom for Eternity!)

Jesus and his apostles who followed Him, warned us that it is with great difficulty that one will enter the 'Kingdom of God' (Mark 10:25-27, Acts 14:22, and others), but, it is too important for us to miss out by a hairs-breadth, so we absolutely must meet people and circumstances right in accordance with God's Will and His Word. And, we are blessed with the privilege to do that, via the power that God provided for us to do so. The most encouraging part is that because of God's compassion and His desire to save us (and other obedient believers), from a condemnation of unbelievers and disobedient ones who are deceived by the devil, God's Word has made Himself responsible (via His Promises), to do that double work for us in this Gospel Age that we are now living in.

In the 1st chapter of Colossians, apostle Paul said he prayed for them to be "Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power", (Vs.11), so that they would be able to endure all things with joyfulness.

He meant, to meet the various trials and battles Scripturally, (and the things said and done to us), and, all the circumstances of life that we are in, and to also rejoice in doing so. When the disciples of the Early Church were flogged and severely persecuted by the Scribes and Pharisees, they went to their own people and praised God for the privilege of suffering for such a wonderful cause, and, for being counted worthy to suffer in Jesus Christ's Name. It was not just a few words said against them, but it was a

real flogging and the threaten of death. No wonder the place was shaken as if with a mighty wind, and all were filled afresh with the Holy Spirit and given the power to meet all things in God's way (even in their financial affairs). (Hebr.10:32-35) "But recall the former days in which, after you were illuminated you endured a great struggle with sufferings: partly while you were made a spectacle both by reproaches and tribulations, and partly while you became companions of those who were so treated; for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves in heaven. Therefore, do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward."

It is God's power alone that enables people to take a stand like that. We cannot do it in our own strength if we tried.

There is also a remarkable passage of Scripture in Ephesians chapter 6: It says 'finally'' (meaning, from this time forward) "my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might." "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles" (tricks, or stratagems) "of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood", (Vs.10-11), but against Satan who is the source of all our troubles..

It is not the people who do things to us, and, circumstances do not just happen; instead, it is the devil himself back of it all, trying to reach us and to destroy us for time and eternity.

For this reason, apostle Paul said, "we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high Places." (Vs.12)

We wrestle Against the spiritual forces that control the evil world. We wrestle against the devil himself, "Wherefore, take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all(that), to stand." (Vs.13)

That means, 'having held steadfast to the end', to remain victorious on the field. We are never to go down in defeat, but only in the strength of God can we do this. We cannot meet our spiritual battles in our own strength, nor at all to meet our physical battles, or financial battles in our strength; but the very moment that we go according to God's plan, that is, to clothe ourselves in His armor, and His strength, we will be able to meet all things, and endure all things with joyfulness (instead of failure and sadness.)

There is just one way that we can put on God's armor, and that is a very serious and important thing in our life. Everything we need and desire depends upon it (and the interests at stake are beyond all comparison.) The only possible person whom God can put the life of His Son on, and the only heart that Jesus can dwell in (in His fulness), and the only heart that can overcome, is the one that is completely and fully surrendered to the 'will of God'.

This is not an arbitrary thing for us; our surrender does not win nor merit it at all. The Blood of Christ has provided this power of God for us, just as freely as the air we breathe. Our full surrender simply places us in a teachable position where God can get possession of us.

A free moral individual can never be controlled by another free moral individual, unless they become subject to them. An employee will never be given a job, unless they are willing to obey the foreman. A child can never be taught in a school unless they are willing to listen to and obey their teacher.

This is also true in divine things. It is impossible for God to take possession and to teach and train us, and, give us power to meet things right, unless we let Him get full possession of us; and when we have settled it finally and forever, whether we live or die, or whether the wrongs against us are ever made right, that the only thing we will do, is to give God His proper place in our life. That surrender of ours, must be like a living sacrifice, just so much so as the three Hebrew children's surrender to go into that fiery furnace. They surrendered to the will of God, when they could have been saved from a terrible fate by the bend of the back. They said: however, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. (Daniel 3:16-18).

'That final surrender is what quenched the violence of fire, and enabled God to bring them forth to have no more trouble. Their wonderful victory has been an inspiration to so many others to go thru their battles right, for we serve the same God as those three Hebrews did, and have to meet the same conditions of faith.

After our confession of repentance and we have surrendered, if there is any rebellion left, the Lord will let something happen to bring it out for us. We should thank God with our whole heart for bringing out such things, because they are hidden and unknown to us. If we were to leave this world we would be lost forever.

Therefore, instead of feeling angry and disagreeable or change our course of action in any way toward them, those people who do and say things against us, we ought to praise and thank God for revealing something in our heart that would destroy us forever. If we were buying food that contained poison (but unknown to us), we would consider it a wonderful favor if someone would tell us to save us from being poisoned. And we know that God not only wants to save our lives for our time in this life, but for Eternity also. That is why God exposes those things in our heart.

We can recall and remember how David surrendered fully to God (as far as he knew how), and, not only as a shepherd boy, but when God called him to lead His people and had him anointed to be king. If one would have asked him if he was in rebellion, he would have

replied, "No, I have given this life to God the best way I know how, and I am serving Him. (Rebellion is a very subtle and hidden thing in a person.)

Jeremiah spoke as inspired by God to tell us (Jere.17:9) "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" If we were to die with rebellion hidden in our heart, we would go to the lake of fire; that is the reason God enables things to take place for these things to be exposed within us, to remove them from our heart. ||

Somehow, David always seemed to be in trouble after being anointed as king, and before he got the throne. Saul was using human efforts to try to hold onto his throne, and to keep David from getting what belonged to him. At one place he said to Saul: "Wherefore doth my lord thus pursue after his servant? for what have I done? or what evil is in mine hand?" (1st Sam.26:18). |

The truth is, if Saul had not persecuted David, David would not have been tested and tried (and could have surely landed in the Pit). That persecution, those things that Saul said and did to him were surely humanly wrong and unjust, but divinely speaking they were just the things he needed to have to happen in his life. When Nabal sent such an ungrateful letter to David, the hidden rebellion in David's heart (to avenge wrongs done to him), was then exposed and brought out. He had told every one of his men to gird on his sword, and then started out to avenge himself.

"And David heard in the wilderness that Nabal did shear his sheep. And David sent out ten young men, and he said unto the young men, Get you up to Carmel, and go to Nabal, and greet him in my name: And thus shall you say to him that lives in prosperity", "Peace be both to thee, and peace be to thine house, and peace be unto all that thou hast."

"And now I have heard that thou hast shearers: now thy shepherds which were with us and we hurt them not, neither was there anything missing unto them, all the while they were in Carmel. |

"Ask thy young men, and they will show thee. Wherefore let the young men find favor in thine eyes; for we come in a good day: give, I pray thee, whatsoever cometh to thine hand unto thy servants, and to thy son David. And when David's young men came,, they spoke to Nabal according to all those words in the name of David, and ceased.

"And Nabal answered David's servants, and said, Who is David? and who is the son of Jesse? there be many servants nowadays that break away every man from his master, Shall I then take my bread, and my water, and my flesh that I have killed for my shearers, and give it unto men, whom I know not (from) where they be?

"So David's young men turned their way, and went (away) again, and came and told him (David) all those sayings. And David said unto his men, Gird ye on every man his sword. And they girded on every man his sword: and David also girded on his sword: and there went up after David about four hundred men; and two hundred abode (stayed) by their stuff." (1st Sam.25:4-13).

"Brethren in the Lord, we do not have to put on our sword to avenge ourselves." (the Pastor said). For instance, if somebody has treated us unreasonably and maybe we have acted a little cool toward them, we are then to become like David was when on his way to avenge himself against Nabal. We cannot afford to change our attitude even one iota toward the other person, regardless of what they may do to us. We, if we knew it, are standing in our own light when we do not meet things right. We are robbing ourselves of our own peace, and, while also getting farther away from Heaven.

This is more important and serious than anything that ever touched our life. The human heart has wonderful capabilities of sorrow and of happiness (and it is going to be one or the other throughout eternity). That is what is involved in this question of meeting things in God's way. If we meet them right we will go to Heaven; if we meet them in a wrong way, we will eventually go to the Lake of Fire (if there is no true repentance on our part).

(Such a final decision on David's part brought an end to Saul's persecution and a straight path was opened for David to get the throne. Before that test David did not know that he was going on the wrong path; but as the result of having the last bit of hidden rebellion taken out, he entered the straight and narrow road that leads to life eternal. This is what God is doing for you and me, when our surrender to meet things in His way is a final decision and surrender.

(A PART III OF THIS MESSAGE WILL TELL US OF HOW GOD GAVE DAVID THE OPPORTUNITY TO SINCERELY REPENT, AND SUCCESSFULLY BE PREPARED BY GOD, FOR ETERNAL LIFE IN HEAVEN)!! &&&&&&&

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- S299R SOME MAIN POINTS:1 .. The spiritual guidance needed for us to make Scriptural decisions, along with the power for us to resist Satan and the trials and temptations that he devises, has already been provided for us by the Promises of God. So, we are told in God's Word, that "happy is the man who goes through his trials successfully." (because God gives us the power to resist Satan's temptations and snares to defeat us on our pathway to Salvation.)
- 2 .. Everything must come through God in a true Christian's life, and Bible passages reveal that God allows things to take place to test us and our faith, to see how we will meet them (because how we do meet those circumstances will indicate who we are trusting in). It is how God provides opportunity for us to be convicted, come to repentance, and be saved from perishing with pride and rebellion in our heart. &&&&&&&